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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 244

AUGUST, 1963

JULY NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT AT 179,900 SETS RECORD

The rapid seasonal job expansion which characterized the June labor market abated somewhat during July but not before it had pushed non-farm employment in Montana to an all time high. Estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics had 179,900 wage earners on non-farm payrolls at mid-July. It was the highest industrial employment total of record. The previous high mark was set in August 1956 when 179,800 wage earners were employed.

Up 900 from June

Most of the July employment gain of 900 took place in construction, trade, service, and mining industries. With bad weather no longer a drawback 800 workers were added to contract construction payrolls during July to bring the statewide total to 14,300. Other over-the-month gains were recorded in trade, up 400, mining and the service industries, up 200 each. Manufacturing industries dropped 300 from June payrolls with all of the deficit tied to completion of missile assembling and installation. Trends in lumbering and food manufacturing fared better with gains of 100 and 200 respectively. Government employment was shy 400 as a drop of 600 in federal employment overpowered a gain of 200 at state and local units. Employment in transportation, communications and utility firms

The 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service placed 11,184 workers in jobs during July. Of this number, 3,187 were added to payrolls of industry and commerce and 7,997 were absorbed in a variety of agricultural activities. Nearly one-half, or 1,418, of the July job placements were in trade and service industries. Next in order were manufacturing, 349; private household, 345; construction, 329; government, 247; and transportation and utilities, 219. Job placements by major occupational groups included 179 in professional and managerial classifications; 649 in skilled and semi-skilled categories; and 1,002 in unskilled and other groups. The state's industrial employers listed 3,405 job orders during the month.

failed to move from a June total of 18,500.

Year's Gain Set at 1,400

The non-farm job total showed a margin of 1,400 over July 1962. Five major industry groups had higher employment totals this year than last. Employment deficits of 800 in manufacturing, 500 in construction (both as a result of completed minuteman missile projects); and 400 in transportation, utilities, and communications from last July were more than offset by gains in five other industry groups. Government employment headed the list with an advance of 1,900, mostly teachers and other school personnel. The recovery in mining payrolls continued with an increase of 600. Trade, service, and finance insurance and real estate were each up 200 from July last year.

New Activity in Butte

The start of test operations at Butte's new \$40 million copper concentrator plant brings a new climate of optimism

to the mining city. It is quite a different picture from four years ago when the economy was caught in the hard grip of a metal mining strike which lasted 6 months and idled 8,500 workers. One of the largest construction projects in Butte in many a year, the new plant had a peak construction payroll of 1,600 by late June. When completed later this year, the highly automated plant will employ 12 autogenous grinding mills to process 42,000 tons of ore per day. This new facility will replace the concentrator at Anaconda.

Unemployment Claims Decline

Claims for unemployment insurance benefits continued to drop as seasonal job opportunities expanded. New insured unemployment during July—as measured by initial claims filed—shows a drop of 574 from July last year. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1963, more than 7,500 fewer new claims were filed than during fiscal 1962. The result was a decline of nearly \$½ million in benefit payments during fiscal 1963.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE					
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit		
	1) June 1963	2) May 1963	June 1962	June 1963	May 1963	June 1962	June 1963	May 1963	June 1962	June 1963	May 1963	June 1962
3) All Manufacturing	7.9	6.8	7.1	6.7	5.1	5.9	4.9	4.1	3.5	3.2	2.3	2.0
Durable Goods	9.2	8.2	8.6	7.7	6.2	7.1	5.8	4.6	3.8	3.5	2.7	2.1
Primary Metal	4.3	3.9	6.0	1.2	1.3	4.4	5.1	2.4	2.4	1.5	.8	1.5
3) Nondurable Goods	4.9	3.7	3.5	4.3	2.8	3.2	2.8	3.1	3.0	2.3	1.3	1.7
All Mining	8.1	7.8	9.8	4.9	5.8	6.5	8.7	9.7	7.0	5.1	4.9	3.0
Metal Mining	7.1	4.5	7.7	2.3	1.8	3.7	7.5	8.3	5.8	3.8	3.8	2.7

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures revised on more complete returns. 3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line—**Field Summary July 1**

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(455 jobseekers, 114 new, 306 men, 149 women). Employment trends starting to tighten up with impending shift of copper concentrating from Anaconda to Butte. Construction, mining, and service industry layoffs boosted unemployment by 100 during July. Main street labor demand below last year. Upswing in farm hiring for hay harvest.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(1,957 jobseekers, 927 new, 1,176 men, 781 women). Labor market trends hold firm as fall season begins. Heavy agenda of construction projects on good schedule. Shortage of carpenters at Yellowtail Dam where work force nears 1,000. Eighteen highway projects totaling \$12 million employ 400. Other projects include \$15 million oil refinery expansion, \$5½ million federal building, commercial, fraternal, religious, and residential units. All mining operations at stand still with exception of increased oil field activities at Roundup. Special trade promotions and Midland Empire Fair made hundreds of temporary jobs for sales and service workers. Good demand for harvest help with labor supply and demand in balance.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(300 jobseekers, 237 new, 180 men, 120 women). Good variety of building and highway construction set a good pace during July uninterrupted by weather or labor problems. Employment in logging and sawmills building toward peak. All manufacturing firms on steady schedules. Good tourist patronage keeps trade and service employment at high seasonal levels.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(873 jobseekers, 435 new, 577 men, 296 women). Hiring activity starting to level off especially in construction. Construction layoffs continue at copper concentrating plant after peak employment of nearly 1,600 during June. Full payrolls reached on road construction with only replacement hiring. Metal mine hiring limited to replacement of vacationing workers. Labor demand for main street help not too brisk.

CUT BANK—(263 jobseekers, 52 new, 180 men, 83 women). Industrial labor demand not too brisk during July. Passive trends prevail in construction and the trade and service industries. Tourist traffic down 40% from last year with some resorts considering early closing dates this year. Farm labor demand exceeds last year.

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment	July 1963	June 1963	July 1962	July Avg. 1954-63
Industrial Employment	179,900	179,000	178,500	174,800
New Job Applicants	4,528	6,563	5,321	4,547
Job Applicants, End of Month	10,064	11,545	10,955	7,950

Insured Unemployment Week of	Aug. 2 1963	July 5 1963	Aug. 3 1962	Avg. Wk. 1959-63
New and Renewal Claims	461	569	775	563
Unemployed Weeks Filed	2,928	2,604	3,041	2,863
Total Unemployed Claims	3,389	3,173	3,816	3,426

DILLON—(63 jobseekers, 74 new, 28 men, 35 women). Active trends continue on industry and farm fronts. Severe July hail storm damaged alfalfa and grain crops with estimated loss of \$1 million. Some small commercial building projects nearing completion. Work continues on earth filled dam, highway, and bridge projects.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(134 jobseekers, 95 new, 62 men, 72 women). Construction work forces unchanged from last month. Preliminary work started on 200 unit air base housing project. Main street business lags behind last year with hiring for replacement purposes only. Good demand for farm labor despite a series of hail storms which caused a 10% loss in grain crops.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(120 jobseekers, 69 new, 65 men, 55 women). Employment activity in farm and industry rebounded after being stalled during much of June by heavy rains. Construction of new shopping center making good progress. New high school nearing completion with 25 men employed on painting and interior work. Oil field activity at low ebb. Grain harvest made jobs for combine operators and truck drivers.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,871 jobseekers, 727 new, 1,118 men, 753 women). Declining construction activity resulted in a high count of new job applicants during July. Most July job orders came from main street service and trade establishments but layoffs of sales personnel are noted at some units. Employment in manufacturing showed little change with only a few callbacks at the smelter. Farm labor demand nears peak as harvest season advances.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(187 jobseekers, 72 new, 132 men, 55 women). Youth comprise 50% of labor supply with the balance of older workers in unskilled and semi-skilled classifications. Most experienced workers employed locally. Most industry groups provided job openings during July. Farm labor demand was chiefly for hay hands and raspberry picking.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(87 jobseekers, 72 new, 53 men, 34 women). July labor market trends most active in trade, service, and agriculture. Construction employment stays steady but with little labor demand. Some new building projects scheduled to start during August. Increasing labor demand noted on the farm front.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(391 jobseekers, 183 new, 246 men, 145 women). July labor demand fell behind previous months when most working forces were built up. Only logging and lumbering occupations were in short supply. No major construction projects started during the month. Farm labor demand steady with adequate labor supply.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,081 jobseekers, 354 new, 927 men, 154 women). Job openings dropped from last year because of Libby lumber industry dispute and failure of sweet cherry crop this year. Lumber manufacturing increased at Kalispell area with 60 payroll additions during July. Construction of new savings and loan building started last July. Farm hiring chiefly for hay hands.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(186 jobseekers, 123 new, 118 men, 68 women). Hiring in industry and farm not up to last year. The absence of 2,000 missile site construction workers this year shows in reduced trade and service volume. About 200 employed on various local building and highway projects. Farm operators getting by with less hired help this year.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(144 jobseekers, 55 new, 78 men, 66 women). Over 150 men employed on building and road projects in area. Good labor demand during July for lumbering and logging crews. Shortage of experienced timber fallers persists. Some railroad hiring for track crews. Special trade promotions and tourist traffic created demand for trade and service workers. Farm labor supply adequate to meet present needs.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	165.5	170.9	179.4	178.5	177.9	175.8	174.2	172.3	169.6	170.0
1963	161.9	161.5	162.7	167.9	171.4	179.0	179.9*						

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary July 1

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(104 jobseekers, 95 new, 68 men, 36 women). Labor market patterns not too active in any industry during July. Big drop in volume of construction from last year. Main street business feels effect of highway by-pass. Good farm crops in prospect but hiring light.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,119 jobseekers, 483 new, 755 men, 364 women). Passive trends in construction and manufacturing were offset by increased hiring in trade industries, public utility firms, and government facilities during July. Local labor disputes held construction and service industry hiring in check. Jobseekers nearly double from last year. Farm labor demand fairly active.

POLSON—(301 jobseekers, 85 new, 203 men, 98 women). Industry and farm labor demand down from last year due chiefly to failure of sweet cherry crop. Slow labor demand in most industry groups. Farm operators cutting down on hay hands by trading help.

SHELBY—(177 jobseekers, 83 new, 102 men, 75 women). Industry labor demand increased by 33% from June but down 18% from last July. Start of new highway and overpass projects only new construction in area. County Fair provided some short time jobs. Steady demands for farm labor.

SIDNEY—(106 jobseekers, 76 new, 59 men, 47 women). Decline in construction jobs offset by increased activity in trade, service, and government. New shopping center scheduled to open Sept. 1, employing 9. All skilled building craftsmen employed. Active farm labor demand with no worker shortages.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(82 jobseekers, 76 new, 73 men, 9 women). Employment in most industry groups now at peak levels. New construction projects include \$95,000 office-warehouse, \$54,000 bowling alley-cafe, and public works project at Noxon Ranger Station. More lumber industry hiring noted. Farm labor demand not too active.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(63 jobseekers, 41 new, 41 men, 22 women). Employment advanced in most industries during July. The one exception was in oil field activity which showed no improvement. New construction projects include bank, store additions, and new homes. Main street hiring was chiefly to replace workers who left. Demand for farm labor keeps at good pace.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 835 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,320 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	July 1963 (2)	June 1963 (3)	July 1962	June '63 to July '63	July '62 to July '63
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	179,900	179,000	178,500	900	1,400
Manufacturing	22,200	22,500	23,000	-300	-800
Durable goods	14,700	15,200	15,400	-500	-700
Lumber and timber products	9,200	9,100	8,600	100	600
Primary metals	3,200	3,200	3,800	00	600
Other (4)	2,300	2,900	3,000	-600	-700
Nondurable goods	7,500	7,300	7,600	200	-100
Food and kindred products	4,200	4,000	4,300	200	-100
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,100	1,100	1,100	00	00
Other (5)	600	600	600	00	00
Mining	7,700	7,500	7,100	200	600
Metal mining	4,100	4,100	3,900	00	200
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,000	900	800	100	200
Petroleum-natural gas production	2,600	2,500	2,400	100	200
Contract Construction	14,300	13,500	14,800	800	-500
Contractors, building construction	5,100	4,300	3,100	800	2,000
Contractors, other than building	5,200	5,300	6,200	-100	-1,000
Contractors, special trade	4,000	3,900	5,500	100	-1,500
Transportation and utilities	18,500	18,500	18,900	00	-400
Interstate railroads	8,200	8,200	8,700	00	-500
Transportation except railroads	4,400	4,400	4,300	00	100
Utilities including communication	5,900	5,900	5,900	00	00
Trade	41,100	40,700	40,900	400	200
Wholesale trade	8,100	8,100	8,300	00	-200
Retail trade	33,000	32,600	32,600	400	400
General merchandise and apparel	6,300	6,300	6,100	00	200
Food stores	4,800	4,600	5,100	200	-300
Eating and drinking establishments	8,900	8,700	8,900	200	00
Automotive and filling stations	6,500	6,500	6,400	00	100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,500	6,500	6,100	00	400
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,100	7,100	6,900	00	200
Services and miscellaneous	25,700	25,500	25,500	200	200
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,500	4,500	4,500	00	00
Personal services	2,100	2,000	2,000	100	100
Other (6)	19,100	19,000	19,000	100	100
Government	43,300	43,700	41,400	-400	1,900
Federal	12,300	12,900	12,900	-600	-600
State and local	31,000	30,800	28,500	200	2,500
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,900	24,300	25,000	-400	-1,100
Manufacturing	3,700	4,300	4,400	-600	-700
Contract construction	2,600	2,500	3,400	100	-800
Transportation and utilities	2,200	2,200	2,300	00	-100
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,000	6,000	5,700	00	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	4,100	4,000	3,900	100	200
Government	4,100	4,100	4,100	00	00
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	23,500	23,400	23,400	100	100
Manufacturing	2,500	2,400	2,500	100	00
Contract construction	1,700	1,800	1,700	-100	00
Transportation and utilities	2,500	2,600	2,700	-100	-200
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,300	7,200	7,400	100	-100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,400	4,300	4,200	100	200
Government	3,800	3,800	3,600	00	200

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JULY 1963 AND JULY 1962

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers In File				Job Placement						UI Claims*			
	July 1963		July 1962		July 1963		July 1962		July 1962			July 1962			Wk 8-2			
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda	114	8	95	10	455	33	558	113	81	34	95	21	87	32	119	16	152 266	
Billings	927	202	945	207	1,957	350	1,978	360	597	1,514	2,111	251	590	1,479	2,069	287	507 601	
Bozeman	237	46	212	38	300	36	197	24	180	179	368	55	234	214	448	101	53 37	
Bullock	435	77	278	53	873	136	2,400	358	105	21	126	34	177	24	201	50	391 1,495	
Cut Bank	52	12	97	18	263	75	159	31	66	122	188	67	80	60	140	31	54 30	
Dillon	74	30	173	75	63	6	110	27	34	241	275	119	77	316	393	183	30 34	
Glasgow	95	15	143	35	134	9	231	20	96	95	191	32	137	76	213	38	57 68	
Glendive	69	8	63	4	120	18	154	17	49	928	977	15	100	783	883	19	31 22	
Great Falls	727	139	838	170	1,871	324	1,946	278	257	1,023	1,280	207	572	394	966	291	700 302	
Hamilton	72	7	72	7	187	31	214	20	70	164	234	33	225	217	442	44	55 42	
Havre	72	8	51	6	87	10	95	11	84	613	697	78	87	246	333	89	45 46	
Helena	183	33	199	33	391	69	493	51	226	127	353	117	287	132	419	134	150 118	
Kalispell	354	54	851	140	1,081	261	560	122	180	82	262	45	517	404	921	215	551 191	
Lewistown	123	18	110	23	186	38	94	15	103	113	216	53	171	119	290	97	95 51	
Livingston	55	7	106	11	144	21	116	9	123	111	234	60	131	103	234	63	40 30	
Miles City	95	17	100	10	104	19	67	4	78	505	583	26	114	545	659	39	64 32	
Missoula	483	90	542	69	1,119	190	687	121	303	213	516	120	317	235	552	154	229 259	
Polson	85	3	191	8	301	38	315	30	55	50	105	14	132	143	275	49	67 53	
Shelby	83	17	88	24	177	18	303	61	65	88	153	30	80	83	163	36	25 32	
Sidney	76	12	31	—	106	6	56	2	65	935	1,000	19	61	1,623	1,684	26	24 14	
Thompson Falls	76	10	62	12	82	17	96	16	49	8	57	13	91	10	101	32	36 39	
Wolf Point	41	9	74	16	63	5	126	18	36	94	130	35	64	51	115	24	33 54	
TOTALS	4,528	822	5,321	969	10,064	1,719	10,955	1,708	2,891	7,260	10,151	1,444	4,331	7,289	11,620	2,018	3,389	3,816

*Includes 186 claims of the Fed. UC Program 189 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July (1) 1963	June (2) 1963	July 1962	July (1) 1963	June (2) 1963	July 1962	July (1) 1963	June (2) 1963	July 1962
All Manufacturing	\$ 98.89	\$107.20	\$104.55	37.6	40.0	41.0	2.63	2.68	2.55
Durable Goods	95.05	106.37	104.00	36.7	40.6	41.6	2.59	2.62	2.50
Primary Metals	105.46	105.06	104.28	40.1	40.1	39.8	2.63	2.62	2.62
Nondurable Goods	109.62	108.67	105.86	40.3	38.4	39.5	2.72	2.83	2.68
Food and Kindred Products	92.16	90.09	88.40	41.7	38.5	40.0	2.21	2.34	2.21
All Mining	112.02	112.36	120.29	41.8	42.4	43.9	2.68	2.65	2.74
Metal Mining	108.47	108.47	120.13	39.3	39.3	42.6	2.76	2.76	2.82
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	104.00	103.28	100.60	42.8	40.5	41.4	2.43	2.43	2.43

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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